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## William Eagle Feather, Impatient for an Answer

Robert Cooperman

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# William Eagle Feather, Impatient for an Answer

by Robert Cooperman

"Wait," she begged me;  
but her heart sings  
for me, like mine for her.  
I've lived too long  
with only the company  
of the wind  
that used to be enough.

Now, there's Lavinia,  
a name as hard for me to say  
as white men stumble  
over the name  
my Ute mother gave me.

It's the first step away  
that scares  
Hair Filled With Sun;  
but in this town—  
as mad with gold fever  
as a frothing fox  
with the biting sickness—  
there's only gossip  
sharp as a lance,  
men that'll use her hard  
as a lathered pony.

When she poured out  
how her husband tried  
to have her killed,  
I held her; she shook  
like she'd break apart.  
I'd have butchered  
the bastard Apache-slow:  
lucky for him  
he's already dead.

Life's too short and mean  
for her and me to wait.

